



March 21, 2006

The Honorable Mike Crapo
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Crapo:

On behalf of America's 3,000 conservation districts, I'd like to thank you for your continued leadership in addressing the critical need to update the Endangered Species Act. The NACD Board of Directors identified the need to make improvements to ESA a top legislative priority for this year. To that end, NACD supports the bipartisan Collaboration for the Recovery of Endangered Species Act of 2005, co-sponsored by you and Senator Blanche Lincoln.

Conservation districts have long supported the need to make the ESA friendly and more appealing for landowners. Private landowners play a crucial role in the protection and recovery of threatened and endangered species. We'd like the presence of imperiled species on private land to be a reward for landowners; not a risk.

We appreciate that CRESA seeks to put into law landowner protections such as the "no surprises" provisions in regulation now. We believe that landowner incentives will help move from simply protecting species to recovering them. Conservation districts have also long believed that consideration should be given to the economic impact of listing and recovering species.

Your bill addresses each of these issues and more. Again, thank you for your leadership in advancing a bill this year that will improve the ESA for both species and landowners.

Sincerely,

Bill Wilson
President